

FACTSHEET

Plant Protection & Quarantine

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

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Plant Protection and Quarantine's Vision for the Future

Excellence in Action

Employees of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) unit have joined together to envision PPQ's future and declare their commitment to taking action to realize this vision. This document describes how PPQ wants to be known in the year 2000 and beyond. While PPQ's primary focus is protecting American agriculture, this vision expands that focus.

Mission of PPQ

The mission of PPQ as a member of the APHIS team is to protect the health of U.S. plant and animal resources and facilitate their movement in the global marketplace.

Role of PPQ

PPQ faces many unique and far-reaching challenges as it heads into the 21st century. These challenges will test its ability to predict events, adapt approaches, and perform at increasingly higher levels. To effectively manage limited resources, progressive strategies are required. Cooperation with other Federal agencies, States, and the private sector must become an integral and valued part of the way PPQ conducts its business. Rapid changes in agricultural practices and increases in international travel and trade require PPQ to adopt innovative approaches to fulfill its mission. PPQ's global leadership for resolution of a wide range of plant health issues is increasingly recognized by the trading community.

Growing concerns about ecology require that PPQ adopt management techniques that encourage and promote protection of the environment. Program decisions and actions concerning the prevention and mitigation of pest problems must be both biologically and environmentally sound and operationally feasible.

PPQ touches the lives of all Americans by ensuring the availability of domestic and imported foods in the marketplace, facilitating the exportation of agricultural commodities to foreign countries, and preserving the vitality of U.S. public and private lands.

Trade Facilitation

PPQ supports U.S. world leadership in trade and trade facilitation. Enhanced trade is achieved by using state-of-the-art information systems, training personnel at all levels in international issues, and adopting new technologies in pest management, exclusion, and monitoring. PPQ has a cadre of experts in phytosanitary aspects of international trade.

Partnerships with stakeholders, other agencies, and foreign governments allow PPQ to ensure adherence to quarantine protocols. PPQ responds to challenges of phytosanitary requirements by preparing supporting scientific data quickly and accurately.

PPQ's exclusion activities prevent the establishment of exotic animal and plant pests and diseases, thereby protecting the environment and avoiding added production costs and gaining greater access to foreign markets for U.S. agricultural producers.

Environmental Stewardship

PPQ's excellence in excluding harmful nonindigenous species plays a vital role in support of the country's national objective to protect the environment. PPQ is environmentally aware and takes an active role in protecting ecosystems and improving the quality, safety, and security of the Nation's food supply and in educating the public in environmental stewardship. In support of an ecosystem approach to decisionmaking, PPQ is seeking the participation of a diverse group of stakeholders in program planning. Compliance with environmental statutes and advocacy of alternative control methods are integral parts of PPQ's planning process and mitigate potentially adverse impacts on ecosystems.

Customer Service

PPQ is sensitive and responsive to customers in the broadest sense, including all those directly or indirectly affected by its services and regulations. PPQ delivers its programs and services in a timely and courteous manner. Public awareness of the importance of PPQ's mission is maintained through intensive outreach campaigns. PPQ disseminates useful information through personal contact and user-friendly communication systems to meet customers' needs.

Cooperation and Partnerships

PPQ creates strategic alliances that further the mission of the agency with stakeholders and customers. The cooperation of industry groups is ensured through effective partnership agreements. PPQ establishes effective interagency partnerships and agreements with international, Federal, State, and local government entities. PPQ's equal partnership with other Federal and State agencies fosters understanding of, and respect and support for, each other's missions. This partnership is achieved through open communication at all levels and dedication to harmonious and productive relationships.

A true partnership exists within PPQ among all employees, including recognized employee associations. A spirit of cooperation, mutual respect, and collaboration extends to all parts of the organization.

Changing Workplace

PPQ is a results-oriented organization in which employees of diverse backgrounds are valued for their contributions. Every employee reflects the level of professional competence required by his or her position. Employees are recognized and compensated equitably for their contributions to the mission of the agency. PPQ addresses work and family life issues, thereby strengthening employee commitment. PPQ deals with safety and health concerns promptly and effectively.

PPQ is committed to respecting and giving fair and equitable treatment to all individuals throughout the organization. Employee accountability is ensured by delegation of responsibility and authority to the lowest practical level. Employees participate in providing input to all aspects of work. Teamwork is promoted throughout the agency, and conflict is resolved in productive ways.

Leadership

Leadership is shared among all levels of the organization. Through effective management, employees are empowered and encouraged to achieve their maximum leadership potential. The selection and training of PPQ managers develops individuals who are respected by employees for their competence and ability to train, coach, mentor, direct, and support employees. PPQ's managers motivate employees to be highly productive and give appropriate recognition for accomplishments. Managers foster an environment for employees to work as effective members of empowered and entrusted work teams.

Professionalism

PPQ employees are skilled and committed to excellence. They have a high level of training and proficiency and exhibit conduct and qualities that characterize them as professionals. They maintain the high technical and ethical standards of their profession and take pride in a thorough knowledge of their occupation and mission. PPQ's culture reflects its commitment to continuing development and training of its employees.

Technology

PPQ incorporates new and emerging technologies into the workplace. PPQ's highly motivated workforce is proficient in the use of these technologies. PPQ's multidisciplinary Plant Health Science and Technology Center provides a strong technical and scientific basis for dealing with phytosanitary and pest management issues and enables the United States to maintain its competitive position as a world leader in agricultural trade.

Maximization of Resources

PPQ actively pursues enhanced State and industry cooperation, user fees, and reimbursements so that its most critical services are not rendered ineffective due to limitations of resources. PPQ maximizes the use of congressional appropriations and personnel resources by directing them toward the most critical, cost-beneficial activities. Decisions and priorities are based on biologically sound risk assessments and technological advancements. Budgetary and personnel systems encourage judicious resource management.